

Appl. No. 09/994,199

Amd. Dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office Action Dated 10/29/2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying the presence of hydrogen sulfide in fluid produced from a reservoir, comprising:

~~providing~~ lowering a downhole tool comprising at least one sample of material operatively connected thereto into the wellbore such that the material is exposed to the fluid, the coupon being that is optically reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide; and

determining exposing whether an optical reaction has occurred to the at least one sample of material ~~to a sample of reservoir fluid upon the fluid production from the reservoir.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~inspecting the optical change on the surface of the~~ at least one sample of material at the surface for an optical reaction ~~to determine if hydrogen sulfide is present in the reservoir fluid.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~inspecting the optical reaction change on the surface of the~~ at least one sample of material to estimate the quantity of hydrogen sulfide contained in the reservoir fluid.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~lowering the tool into a wellbore; and~~  
retrieving the tool from the wellbore.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

taking temperature readings of the reservoir fluid.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
taking temperature readings of the reservoir fluid;  
inspecting the at least one sample of material for exposure to hydrogen sulfide ~~contained in the reservoir fluid~~; and  
estimating the hydrogen sulfide content of the reservoir fluid based upon the inspection of the optical ~~change on the surface~~ reaction of the at least one sample of material and the temperature readings of the reservoir fluid.
7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one sample of material is selected from a group comprising chromium, nickel and steel alloys.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
detecting an optical ~~reaction~~ change on the surface of the at least one sample of material with a sensor.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
transmitting a signal indicating an optical ~~reaction~~ change on the surface of the at least one sample of material ~~as a result of detecting hydrogen sulfide~~.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying the presence of hydrogen sulfide in a subsurface formation penetrated by a wellbore, comprising:  
lowering a downhole tool into the wellbore, the tool comprising a housing, at least one sample of material with a surface that is optically reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide, and at least one passage for conducting formation fluid to the sample of material;  
delivering formation fluid to the sample of material via the passage;  
retrieving the downhole tool from the wellbore; and  
inspecting the sample of material ~~for an optical reaction to determine if the wellbore fluid contained hydrogen sulfide~~.

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11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one sample of material is selected from a group comprising chromium, nickel and steel alloys.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the tool comprises a plurality of optically reactive coupons, the coupons capable of different optical ~~changes~~ reactions in response to varying hydrogen sulfide concentrations.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
taking temperature readings of the formation fluid;  
inspecting the optical ~~change~~ reaction of the at least one sample of material to determine if hydrogen sulfide is present ~~in the formation fluid~~; and  
estimating the hydrogen sulfide content of the ~~in-situ formation fluids~~ fluid utilizing the optical ~~change~~ reaction on the surface of the at least one sample of material and the temperature readings of the formation fluid.
14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
transporting formation fluid through the downhole tool; and  
collecting formation fluid samples within the downhole tool.
15. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying the presence of hydrogen sulfide in a subsurface formations penetrated by a wellbore, comprising the steps of:  
lowering a downhole tool into the wellbore, the tool including a housing having at least one sample of material that is reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide and a passage for conducting formation fluid to the sample of material;  
delivering formation fluid to the sample of material via the passages;  
retrieving the downhole tool from the wellbore; and  
inspecting the sample of material for an optical reaction ~~to determine if the wellbore fluid contained hydrogen sulfide~~.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the sample of material is a metal.
17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the metal is selected from a

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group comprising copper and nickel alloys.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the sample of material reacts to hydrogen sulfide by changing color.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of reservoir analysis, comprising:

~~providing a downhole tool comprising at least one sample of material that is optically reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide;~~

lowering the downhole tool into a wellbore that penetrates a reservoir, the downhole tool comprising at least one sample of material that is optically reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide;

flowing formation fluid through the downhole tool;

exposing the at least one sample of material to formation fluid upon the formation fluid entry into the wellbore;

taking temperature readings of the formation fluid;

collecting formation fluid samples within the downhole tool;

retrieving the downhole tool from the wellbore;

inspecting ~~the optical change of~~ the at least one sample of material for an optical reaction exposure to hydrogen sulfide contained in the formation fluid; and

estimating the hydrogen sulfide content of the formation fluid within the reservoir utilizing the inspection of the optical ~~change~~ reaction of the at least one sample of material and the temperature readings of the formation fluid.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A downhole tool, comprising:

a housing; and

at least one sample of material operatively connected to the housing, the at least one sample of material being that is optically reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide positioned in the housing;

wherein the at least one sample of material is adapted to be exposed to reservoir fluid

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upon the reservoir fluid entry into the apparatus.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, wherein the sample of material is a metal.
22. (Currently and Previously Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 21, wherein the metal is selected from a group comprising comprising chromium, nickel and steel alloys.
23. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, wherein the sample of material reacts to hydrogen sulfide by changing color.
24. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, further comprising a temperature sensor.
25. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, further comprising a pressure sensor.
26. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, wherein the at least one sample of material comprise removable coupons.
27. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, wherein the at least one sample of material comprises removable coupons having different reactive responses to hydrogen sulfide.
28. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, wherein the housing further comprises a coupon holder that is resistant to hydrogen sulfide, the housing capable of retaining the at least one sample of material.
29. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, wherein the apparatus comprises at least three hydrogen sulfide detection coupons.
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises a sensor capable of detecting a ~~change~~ an optical reaction in the at least one sample of material ~~as a result of detecting hydrogen sulfide~~.
31. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ downhole tool of claim 30, wherein the sensor is capable of transmitting a signal indicating ~~a change~~ an optical reaction in the at least one

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sample of material ~~as a result of detecting hydrogen sulfide.~~

32. (Previously Amended) A downhole tool, comprising:

a plurality of coupons that are optically reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide;

a housing capable of retaining the coupons and having a passage for communicating formation fluids between a wellbore and the coupons;

a temperature sensor;

a probe capable of flowing formation fluids into the downhole tool;

wherein when the formation fluids are pumped through the downhole tool the coupons are exposed to the formation fluid upon the formation fluid entry into the downhole tool; and

wherein the surface of the plurality of coupons are capable of changing color upon contact with hydrogen sulfide and can be interpreted to determine the hydrogen sulfide content in the formation fluids.

33. (Currently Amended) The downhole tool of claim 32, wherein the downhole tool further comprises a sensor capable of detecting ~~a change~~ an optically reaction in the at least one sample of material as a result of detecting hydrogen sulfide.

34. (Currently Amended) The downhole tool of claim 33, wherein the sensor is capable of transmitting a signal indicating ~~a change~~ an optically reaction in the at least one sample of material as a result of detecting hydrogen sulfide.

35. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for identifying the presence of hydrogen sulfide in a wellbore penetrating a subsurface formation, comprising:

a downhole tool including a housing having at least one sample of material that is reactive to the presence of hydrogen sulfide, the housing having a passage for conducting formation fluid to the sample of material when the downhole tool is lowered into the wellbore.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the sample of material is a metal.

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37. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the metal is selected from a group comprising copper and nickel alloys.
38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the sample of material reacts to hydrogen sulfide by changing color.